



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
SUPERFUND SITE STRATEGY RECOMMENDATION - REGION 06



Site Name: Beacon Hill Mine - NM0084

CERCLIS ID#: N/A

Alias Site Name: Mesa Top No. 7, Beacon Hill No. 18-23

Address: Latitude 35 degrees 20'33.30" Longitude 107 degrees 49'16.38"

City/County or Parish/State/Zip: McKinley County, New Mexico



Report Type: Pre-CERCLIS Screening

Date: 09/10/09

Author: NMED

RECOMMENDATION:

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. No Further Remedial Action Planned Under Superfund (NFRAP)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Further Investigation Needed Under Superfund															
	<table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> PA</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> HRS</td><td>Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> SI</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Low</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> ESI</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> RA</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">To be performed by: _____</td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/> PA	<input type="checkbox"/> HRS	Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> SI	<input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> ESI	<input type="checkbox"/> RA		<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			To be performed by: _____		
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<input type="checkbox"/> ESI	<input type="checkbox"/> RA															
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:																
To be performed by: _____																
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Action Deferred to: <input type="checkbox"/> RCRA <input type="checkbox"/> NRC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLM																
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Site Being Addressed Under the State Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No																

NOTIFY AUTHORITY:

<input type="checkbox"/> Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> RCRA	<input type="checkbox"/> TSCA	<input type="checkbox"/> CAA	<input type="checkbox"/> SMCRA
<input type="checkbox"/> Remedial	<input type="checkbox"/> State/Tribe	<input type="checkbox"/> NPDES	<input type="checkbox"/> NRC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource Trustee: <u>BLM</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> CERCLA	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> UIC	<input type="checkbox"/> SPCC	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Enforcement	Facility			

SEND SSSR COPIES TO: ☐ 6SF-AC ☐ 6WQ-SP ☐ ATSDR ☒ State Agency ☐ Tribal Agency

DISCUSSION:

The New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Mine and Minerals Division (MMD) conducted a site assessment on December 6, 2007 at the Beacon Hill Mine site. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted a site assessment on June 3, 2009. The mine operated as a wet mine. MMD measured maximum gamma radiation readings at 1257 uR/hr at a waste pile outside of the mine site proper. NMED observed several waste piles and two open vent shafts. A maximum gamma radiation reading was noted in the area of the waste piles and barren areas at 1005 counts per second. Many waste piles are marked by erosional rills, indicating that waste has been dispersed downstream. There are several residences less than three miles of the mine site, and the closest well is an irrigation well less than one and one half one mile from the mine site with a total uranium concentration of 48.2 ug/l. The land surface and mineral rights are held by the Bureau of Land Management.

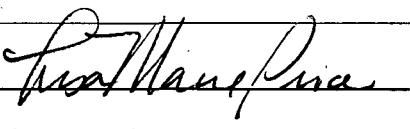
NMED recommended that action be taken at the site to remove waste piles with elevated radioactivity and to plug the open shafts. NMED also recommended that the mine site be further assessed under CERCLA to characterize the extent of site-derived waste dispersion along the drainages and impacts to groundwater.

In October 2011, EPA conducted an aerial radiological survey in the Poison Canyon area of the Ambrosia Lake sub-district by using the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT). The Beacon Hill Mine was included in the ASPECT survey. The gamma radiation readings at the Beacon Hill Mine site were one to two times statistically greater than background readings in the area.

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between EPA and the New Mexico State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, August 2011, the Beacon Hill Mine will be addressed by the Bureau of Land Management.

APPROVALS:

Report Reviewed by: Lisa Marie Price
(Site Assessment Manager)

Signature: 

Date: 11/25/11

Disposition
Approved by: John Meyer
(Section Chief 6SF-TR)

Signature: 

Date: 11/29/11